



***Columbia Falls Aluminum Company***  
**2000 Aluminum Drive**  
**Columbia Falls, Montana 59912**

**MARCH 20, 2017 – Need to add:**

- **date of release to be issued**
- **panel meeting location and address**
- **Roux, EPA and MDEQ website and comment process**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CFAC Completes Site Evaluation First Phase**

**Columbia Falls, MT, March \_\_, 2017—** Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, LLC (CFAC) has completed the first phase of site evaluation work at the former Anaconda Aluminum smelter site located in Columbia Falls, Montana. The results of the evaluation confirm site groundwater issues are caused by closed landfills located on the site and indicate the groundwater is not flowing toward Aluminum City.

A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), with Federal and State of Montana oversight, required CFAC to investigate site conditions and to evaluate methods for addressing those findings. The work associated with the RI/FS is expected to continue for the next four years. The field work of Phase 1 of the site investigation was completed in September 2016 and the data submitted to the federal government and the State of Montana on February 27, 2017.

Phase I involved collecting more than 700 samples (soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment) and installing 44 monitoring wells. The seven-month process was completed on time, which is critical to keeping the RI/FS work on schedule. The RI/FS will evaluate remedial alternatives to address the sources as this phase of work progresses.

The investigation confirms groundwater beneath the CFAC site has been impacted by materials placed in the legacy landfills that were used from 1955 until approximately 1980. Furthermore, the studies indicate the material in groundwater is not moving toward drinking water wells in Aluminum City.

“We successfully accomplished the goal of Phase I, which is critical to the project,” said John Stroiazzo, CFAC Project Manager. “The work performed provides an understanding of site conditions and will help determine the roadmap forward.”

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"We know moving this work forward is important to everyone involved in this project, including the community of Columbia Falls," Stroiazzo added.

The next steps of the RI/FS include preparation of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment Work Plans and the Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan. These plans will outline the additional data that needs to be collected to complete the risk assessment process. The Phase II Sampling and Analysis Plan will describe the Scope of Work planned for the Phase II site investigation. CFAC will use these studies to further assess site conditions and will report the results to the state and federal agencies.

"We now have completed the first step of this overall process," Stroiazzo said. "Along with the demolition of the buildings and the removal of materials from the site, people are seeing progress. We are doing what we committed to do and remain dedicated to completing the RI/FS work."

The Phase I results are available for public review and comment by visiting various websites and the Columbia Falls Branch of the Flathead County Library:

- **Roux Associates**  
**XXX.XXXXXXX.XXX and Comment**
- **US EPA**  
**XXX.XXXXXX.XXXX and Comment**
- **MDEQ**  
**XXX.XXXXXXX.XXX and Comment**
- **CFAC Community Liaison Panel Website**  
<http://www.cfacproject.com/>
- **Columbia Falls Branch of Flathead County Library**  
130 6th Street West, Columbia Falls, MT  
Phone: 406-892-5919

*Visitors interested in reviewing the material should ask for assistance from Tony.*

Roux will present the Phase I report at the CFAC community liaison panel meeting. The meeting is open to the public and scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at the [LOCATION AND STREET ADDRESS], Columbia Falls. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Vonda Matthews at 1-800-784-4343.